Claims

1. The use of a masked or coated copper salt in a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and/or prevention of a disease being treatable and/or preventable by a copper salt.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein said disease is age related macular degeneration or diabetic retinopathy .

3. The use of a masked or coated copper salt in a method to stabilize a pharmaceutical composition from copper salt dependent decomposition.

4. The use in accordance to any of the preceding claims wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises one or more copper sensitive compounds such as an omega-3-fatty acid, vitamin C, vitamin E, lutein and/or zeaxanthin.

5. The use in accordance to any of the preceding claims wherein said copper is coated with gelatin, a liposome, or a mono- and di-glyceride.

6. The use in accordance to any of the preceding claims wherein said copper is copper gluconate, copper oxide, copper carbonate or copper chloride.

7. The use in accordance to any of the preceding claims wherein said coating is a zwitterionic phospholipid including but not limited to phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylserine, phosphatidylethanolamine, spingomyelin and other ceramides, as well as various other zwitterionic phospholipids.

8. The use in accordance to any of the preceding claims wherein said copper is a copper cyclodextrin complex.

9. A digestible capsule material, in particular a gastrointestinal tract digestible capsule material, containing a masked and/or coated copper salt, characterized in that said capsule material represent said masking and/or coating material for said copper salt.

10. A digestible capsule material of claim 9, wherein said copper salt is already coated with a coating, and said coating might be the same or another masking material than said capsule material.

11. A digestive capsule material of claims 9 and 10 the 2 comprising in the fill the following ingredient in vitamin C which comprises or substantially consists of calcium ascorbate, vitamin E which comprises or substantially consists of d,l alpha tocopheryl acetate, zinc which comprises or substantially consists of zinc oxide and an omega 3 fatty acid which comprises or substantially consists of Omega-3 acid triglycerides Ph.Eur.

12. The use of a masked or coated copper salt in the form of a digestive capsule according to claims 9 to 11, in a nutrient, or in a dietary supplement .

13. The use of a masked or coated copper salt in the form of a digestive capsule according to claims 9 to 11 for the manufacture of a nutrient composition, or as a dietary supplement composition, for the prevention and/or the treatment of of age related macular degeneration or diabetic retinopathy.

14. Method of treating and/or preventing AMD and/or DR in a subject being in need thereof, comprising administering an effective amount of a nutrient composition, or a dietary supplement composition comprising a masked or coated copper salt in the form of a digestive capsule according to claims 9 to 11.

Claims:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more copper sensitive omega-3-fatty acids and a masked or coated copper salt to stabilize the pharmaceutical composition from copper salt dependent decomposition.

2. The composition in accordance to claim 1 wherein said copper is coated with gelatin, a liposome, or a mono- and di-glyceride.

3. The composition in accordance to any of the preceding claims wherein said copper is copper gluconate, copper oxide, copper carbonate or copper chloride.

4. The composition in accordance to any of the preceding claims wherein said coating is a zwitterionic phospholipid including but not limited to phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylserine, phosphatidylethanolamine, spingomyelin and other ceramides, as well as various other zwitterionic phospholipids.

5. The composition in accordance to any of the preceding claims wherein said copper is a copper cyclodextrin complex.

6. A drug delivery system comprising a digestible capsule shell and a fill, wherein said fill comprises one or more copper-sensitive omega-3-fatty acids and said shell is formed from digestible capsule material comprising a copper salt, **characterized in that** said copper salt is placed into the shell material such that said copper salt is masked and therefore not in contact with said copper-sensitive compounds in said fill.

7. The drug delivery system of claim 6, wherein said fill comprises the following ingredients: vitamin C which comprises calcium ascorbate, vitamin E which comprises d,l alpha tocopheryl acetate, zinc which comprises zinc oxide and an omega 3 fatty acid which comprises Omega-3 acid triglycerides.

8. The drug delivery system of claim 6 for use in the treatment and/or prevention of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and/or diabetic retinopathy (DR).

9. The drug delivery system of claim 6, wherein said digestible capsule material comprises a digestible capsule material that is digestible in the gastrointestinal tract.

10. A method of stabilizing a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more copper sensitive omega-3-fatty acids from copper salt dependant decomposition, comprising masking or coating the copper salt in said pharmaceutical composition.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said copper is coated with gelatin, a liposome, or a mono- and di-glyceride.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said copper is copper gluconate, copper oxide, copper carbonate or copper chloride.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein said coating is a zwitterionic phospholipid including but not limited to phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylserine, phosphatidylethanolamine, spingomyelin and other ceramides, as well as various other zwitterionic phospholipids.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein said copper is a copper cyclodextrin complex.